

24. BREEDING HABITS OF JOHN'S EARTH BOA *ERYX JOHNI*

Little is known about the breeding habits of John's earth boa *Eryx johni*, commonly known as the *andhadi chakalan* in Gujarat. Recently a pair of John's earth boa successfully bred in captivity. The gestation period was about 4 to 5 months. The female did not consume any food during the last three months of this period. She gave birth to 14 young ones ovo-viviparously in July, which is

double the number of offspring as mentioned in THE BOOK OF INDIAN REPTILES (Daniel, J.C. 1983). The young ones were 28 cm long with girth of 5 cm. They were totally different from the adult in their coloration, being light pink in colour with brown blotches on the back.

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25. UNUSUAL PATTERN AND VARIATIONS IN SCALES OF THE COBRA
NAJA NAJA (LINN.)
(With a text-figure)

Variations in the number of labial, ocular, temporal, ventral and caudal scales in many species of snakes have been reported by various authors (Khan 1985, Mathew 1983). Recently I studied and identified a young cobra from the collections of St.

Other variations observed are 21 scales in the anterior portion of the body as against the 25-31 recorded by Smith (1943); anterior two caudals single as against the usually all-paired caudal; and five supralabials with the second and third touching

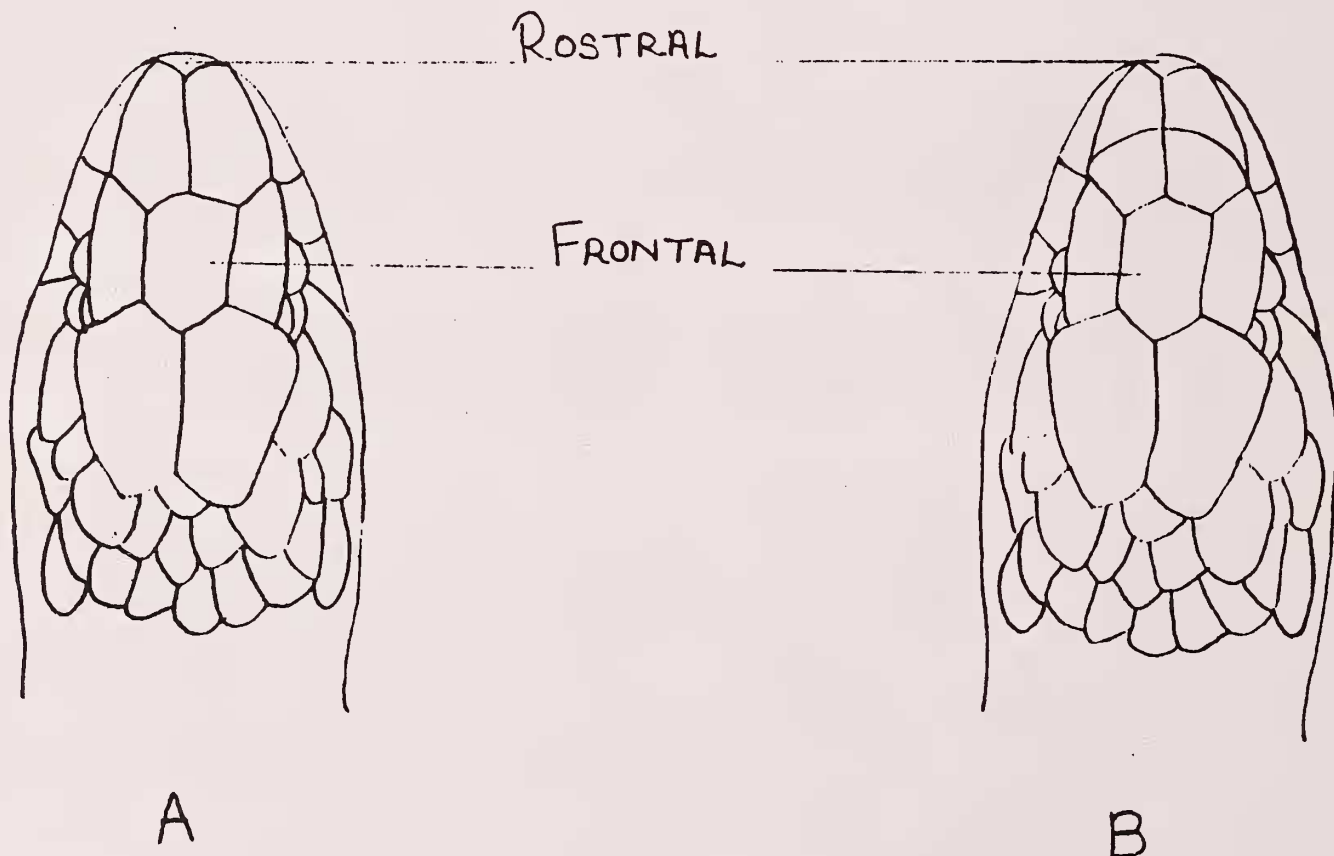


Fig. 1. Diagrammatic representation of the cobra head. A. Unusual scale pattern, B. Usual pattern.

Edmund's college, Shillong, as *Naja naja* (Linnaeus) (variety *kaouthia*). This specimen has an unusual scale pattern on the head: a single pair of scales in place of the paired prefrontals and internasals as illustrated in Fig. 1.

the eye as against the seven supralabials with the third and fourth touching the eye as recorded by Smith.

March 9, 1991

R. MATHEW

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26. RECORD OF *COLISA LABIOSA* (DAY) (PISCES: BELONTIDAE) FROM INDIA

During the course of a survey of the fish fauna of Assam in 1990-91, three specimens of a belontid fish *Colisa labiosa* (Day) were collected from a beel near Jorhat, Assam (94° 10' E, 26° 44' N). *C. labiosa* is a Burmese form, found in the Irrawady at Rangoon and as high as Mandalay (THE FISHES OF INDIA, Day, F.1878; THE FRESHWATER FISHES OF INDIA, Jayaram, K.C. 1981; Bhattacharyya, pers. comm. 1991. Perusal of literature revealed that *C. labiosa* has not so far been recorded from India. The fish was identified with the following diagnostic characters.

D.XV-XVI, 10-12; P.10; V.1; A.XVII, 16-17; C.15

Head length 4.20-4.25 and body depth 2.60-3.40 in total length (84-102 mm). Eye diameter 3.43-3.50 and interorbital distance 2.18-2.21 in head length. Lips very thick and covered with papillae as in *Labeo*. Maxilla reaches to below the anterior nostril. Soft portions of dorsal and anal fins elongated and caudal wedge-shaped. Eight to ten obliquely vertical bluish bars are present on the sides. A light yellowish red band from the eye across the lower jaw behind the lip. Outer edge of anal is yellowish red.

The number of spines and rays in both the dorsal and anal fins of the present specimens was not identical with those recorded by Day (1878). The possibility of such variations in *Colisa* has already been indicated (Day 1878).

C. labiosa is allied to the north Indian species *C. fasciata*, but differs in its thick papillated lips, wedge-shaped caudal fin and the number of bands on the sides. The specimens are preserved in the laboratory of Fisheries Research Unit, Assam Agricultural University, Jorhat.

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27. HOST ASSOCIATION AND UNDESCRIBED ALATE VIVIPAROUS FEMALE OF *MATSUMURAJA CAPITOPHOROIDES* HILLE RIS LAMBERS (HOMOPTERA: APHIDIDAE)
(With five text-figures)

The genus *Matsumuraja* Schumacher has 15 species distributed in China, Formosa, India, Japan and Pakistan. Most of the species infest *Rubus* spp. (except *M. urtica* Ghosh *et al.* and *M. intermedia* Saha *et al.* which are known from plants of the family Urticaceae). Only *M. rubifoliae* Takahashi is known from two hosts, and alternates between *Clethra barbinervis* (primary host) and *Rubus* spp. (secondary host). Sexual morphs of only *M. rubifoliae* are known. This shows that most of the species under this genus are autoecious and an-

holocyclic.

In India, 5 species under this genus are known. *M. capitophoroides*, originally described from Pakistan, has been reported subsequently from north-western, western and north-eastern Himalaya (Chakrabarti and Raychaudhuri 1975, Chowdhuri *et al.* 1969, Ghosh *et al.* 1971 and Raychaudhuri 1980). Hille Ris Lambers (1966) while describing this species, stated that the species does not show any host alternation. Chowdhuri *et al.* (1969) reported this species both from *Rubus macilentus* and an